

Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Environmental Services	Environment, Overview and Scrutiny Panel	09/06/05

ENHANCED RECYCLING SCHEME

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To report progress on the implementation of the Enhanced Recycling Scheme.

BACKGROUND

2. Collections for Phase 1 of the Enhanced Recycling Service started on 18 April. This report gives a brief position statement. It is important to bear in mind that this represents only the very early implementation stage of the first of two phases. Some available data, especially weighbridge and waste arising data is partial only at this stage or is estimated. This is because data supplied by third parties is supplied sometimes 2 - 3 months in arrears so will not yet be available for the period in question.

OUTLINE OUTCOMES TO DATE

3. Most households with collections on either Monday, Tuesday or Thursday have now moved to the ERS with alternate weekly collections. This is a total of 23,860 households generally in South Chorley, Eaves Green, Whittle, Heapey, Clayton, Buckshaw Village, Coppull, Park Road area of Chorley, Cuerden, Euxton, Charnock Richard, Eccleston, Heskin and Mawdesley.
4. The second and final phase of households who have collections on Wednesday or Friday will move to the new service on or after the 22 June. This is a total of 17,754 households generally in Adlington, Duxbury, Heath Charnock, Astley Village, East Chorley, Abbey Village, Brinscall, Hoghton, Croston and part of Clayton Brook.

RECYCLING PARTICIPATION

5. Recycling participation surveys of randomly selected recycling collection rounds in Chorley were carried out during the week beginning 15 May 2005. The aim of which was to determine the level of recycling participation during the early stages of the Enhanced Recycling Scheme. The participation included those households presenting glass/paper, brown bins and the new card/plastics and cans collection.

Tuesday
Round One

6. A cross section of the round was identified and using a randomly selected 506 properties the area was analysed for recycling levels. The levels of recycling as an average for the round are as follows. The results show the levels of uptake were extremely positive with 54% of householders utilising the paper and glass recycling facility and a further 43% of residents presenting brown bins. In the early stages of the new plastic/cans and cardboard kerbside collection the initial participation has been high with 60% of residents presenting the recyclable materials.

Tuesday
Round Two

7. The total round of 1,460 properties were analysed and again the recycling participation levels were extremely positive with 60% of householders presenting paper and glass at kerbside with 64% of household using brown bins for collection of green waste. The proportion of households making use of the new plastic/cans and cardboard collection was a positive 65%. This highlights a definite successful start to the new Enhanced Recycling Scheme and willingness for the majority of Chorley residents to take part in the recycling scheme.

Thursday
Round 1

8. A total of 1,853 properties were analysed in the Coppull area the participation levels showed that a considerable amount of residents were again taking part in the recycling scheme. There were 49% of households presenting paper and glass for recycling. Also 49% of the properties presented brown bins for recycling this should take into account a large number of properties in the area with no gardens. Again the presentation of plastics was high with 55% of the area participating in the recycling scheme.
9. The overall recycling participation levels of the rounds expressed an extremely positive public response to recycling waste. Overall this produced the participation levels as follows paper and glass 54% plastic, cans and cardboard 60% and brown bins 52%. This identifies a considerable amount of waste being diverted from landfill through household kerbside collections and also that overall the householders of Chorley are enthusiastic in regards to recycling.

RECYCLING RATE

10. A preliminary analysis of the recycling rate for May shows an increase over the long term monthly averages as follows:

Paper 21% increase from 169 to 204 tonnes.
Glass 69% increase from 80 to 135 tonnes.

Giving a predicted annual recyclate tonnage of:

Paper 2450 tonnes (2,025)
Glass 1660 tonnes (960)

Clearly the tonnages of cans/plastics and cardboard are all new recyclates tonnages:

Plastics/Cans 53 tonnes
Cardboard 35 tonnes
Giving a predicted annual recycle tonnage of:

Plastics/cans 900 tonnes
Cardboard 650 tonnes

All of which represents a recycling rate of around 40% for this period.

NOTE: all these predictions are based on a very small data set and can only be viewed as preliminary estimates at this time.

SERVICE REQUEST TRAFFIC THROUGH ESU

11. The waste related service requests through our helplines and other channels are running at about nine times the long-term monthly average. Between 18 April 2005 and 17 May 2005 4996 calls were recorded through the Unit compared to 556 waste related calls for a comparable period in 2004. Clearly, although there has been a resource increase this has been extremely challenging and cannot be sustained on a long-term basis without harm to other Environmental Health programmes. This traffic has now slowed down greatly but will need to be monitored over coming months to establish the long-term resource need for the new service.

SERVICE DESIGN ISSUES

12. As expected there have been a number of instances where our standard scheme design has not delivered acceptable results these broadly fall into these categories:
13. Multi-occupied dwellings-where a range of bespoke options and containers are being developed and deployed. Rural and difficult access properties-which will present a challenge due to most of the specialist resources obtained to support the introduction of the service to these properties being deployed to the main scheme as a result of the higher than predicted presentation rates.

Conversely a number of anticipated problems have really not materialised:

14. Excess waste-where standby resources to collect an anticipated increase in side/extra/flytipped waste have really not been used but have been deployed on collections of excess recycle. The conclusion drawn is that the great majority of households who recycle can manage easily with a fortnightly collection of 240 litres, indeed one analysis of the presentation data is that a large number of households can cope with a fortnightly collection of waste for disposal with either no recycling effort or the use only of bring sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. It is recommended that the report be noted.

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There are no background papers to this report.

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